

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3, and substitute therefor:

This application claims the benefits of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/476,548 entitled "Variable Stride Elliptic Exercise Device" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on June 6, 2003; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/486,333 entitled "Variable Stride Exercise Device" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on July 11, 2003; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/490,154 entitled "Variable Stride Exercise Device" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on July 25, 2003; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/491,382 entitled "Variable Stride Exercise Device" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on July 31, 2003; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/494,308 entitled "Variable Stride Exercise Device" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on August 11, 2003; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/503,905 entitled "Variable Stride Exercise Device" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on September 19, 2003; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/511,190 entitled "Variable Stride Apparatus" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on October 14, 2003; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/515,238 entitled "Variable Stride Exercise Device" to Robert E. Rodgers, Jr., filed on October 29, 2003.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10, and substitute therefor:

U.S. Patent No. 6,689,019 ~~Published U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 2002/0142890~~ to Ohrt et al., which is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein, discloses a user defined, dynamically variable stride exercise apparatus. A crank based system with a link that engages a roller at the end of a crank is disclosed. The link may have springs or cams to control and limit stride length. The cams, however, are placed away from the user ~~and directly engage the crank.~~ The resultant forces created by the cam are limited because the full weight of the user may not be applied to the cam. A housing to cover the crank and cam system may be large, thus adding to manufacturing cost. In addition, the overall length of the system may be relatively high. ~~The foot/ankle articulation patterns are determined by the angular motion of the links engaging the crank, which may not desirable for all users of the system.~~

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12, and substitute therefor:

Aerobic exercise apparatus may be designed to create a variable path (e.g., a closed path or a reciprocating path) in space for limb engaging devices. For example, an exercise apparatus may create an approximately elliptical or approximately circular closed path in space (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B) for foot pedals or footpads to simulate a climbing, walking, striding, or jogging motion. In some embodiments, an exercise apparatus may create an approximately curvilinear path in space (e.g., as shown in FIG. 1C) for foot pedals or footpads to simulate a climbing, walking, striding, or jogging motion. Footpads may move in a repetitive manner along a closed path. A closed path may be defined as a path in which an object (e.g., a user's foot, footpad, or foot member) travels in a regular or irregular path around a point or an area. The shape of a closed path may depend on the generating linkage mechanism. For example, a closed path may be an elliptical path, a saddle-shaped path, an asymmetrical path (e.g., a closed path with a smaller radius of curvature on one side of the path as compared to the other side), or an ovate or egg-shaped path. Examples of closed paths are shown in FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1D, 1E, and 1F. In some embodiments, a closed path may be elliptical, orbital, or oblong. In certain embodiments, footpads may move in a repetitive manner along a curvilinear path or an arcuate path.